

Preliminary Amendment
09/376,604
May 22, 2001

This application is a continuation-in-part of International Application No. PCT/IB96/00461 filed May 15, 1996; a continuation-in part of U.S. Serial No. 08/877,571 filed June 17, 1997; a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/094,598 filed June 15, 1998; a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/152,698 filed September 2, 1998, and a continuation-in-part of PCT/IB99/01114 filed June 15, 1999. The teachings of each of these applications is hereby incorporated by reference.

Remarks

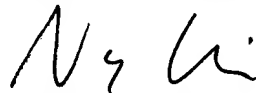
The first page of the specification has been amended for reasons unrelated to patentability to correct inadvertent typographical errors. Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii), a marked-up copy of this amended specification is attached herewith as Appendix A.

Conclusions

Applicants request that the Application, as presently amended, be subject to substantive examination. If the Examiner believes that any further discussion of this communication would be helpful, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone.

No fee is believed to be due at this time, however, please charge any fees or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,
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Preliminary Amendment

08/876,604

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Appendix A

Replacement Paragraph Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii)

This application is a continuation-in-part of International Application No. PCT/IB96/00461[,] filed May 15, 1996; a continuation-in part of U.S. Serial No. [08/877,302 filed June 16, 1997;] 08/877,571 filed June 17, 1997; a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/094,598 filed June 15, 1998; a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/152,698 filed September 2, 1998, and a continuation-in-part of PCT/IB99/01114 filed June 15, 1999. The teachings of each of these applications is hereby incorporated by reference.